Peace Lutheran Church

565 12th Street
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-3871

Downtown Astoria
(Across from Safeway at 12th & Exchange)

Worship on Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Contemporary
11:00 a.m. - Traditional

Sunday School
9:45 a.m. - Children
10:00 a.m. - Adults

"Christ living in us, Loving the world"

• Our Mission • History •

• Group Life and Growth • Worship and Music •

• Children and Youth • You Might Want to Know •

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Our Mission

Our mission grows out of a sense of renewal in the 1990's. We have been experiencing a strong increase in members and activities. Our confidence is that God moves among us to enliven our work in partnership with Pastor Jerry Buss.

Our mission is both to younger families and singles, as well as to seniors and retirees.

Our mission reflects our location in downtown Astoria. We operate a high quality child center utilized by many downtown employees. We also host a Loaves and Fishes lunch program for seniors.

Current vision statements include:

- *"Where children are valued for Christ"*
- *"Actively working together for a stronger Peace"*
- *"Stewards of God's house"*

We sense a call to provide leadership in the community which grows out of the community leaders who are involved in the congregation.

"There is one body and one Spirit,...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." Ephesians 4:4

History

The Lutheran church has its origins in the Reformation movement of the 1500's. While it is the oldest and largest Protestant church in the world, it remains an authentic expression of the one Church of which Jesus Christ is the head and cornerstone.

Significant dates in the life of this congregation:

1880 - German and Swedish beginnings (Trinity Lutheran Church)
1883 - Finnish beginnings (Zion Lutheran Church)
1974 - Merger of Trinity and Zion to form Peace Lutheran Church
1987 - Formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(Of which Peace Lutheran Church is a congregation)

The congregational structure includes:

- A Church Council of twelve members plus the Pastor(s).
- Committees to lead in areas of mission:
  Worship and Music, Education, Youth, Stewardship, Property, Finance, Evangelism/Homebound Visitation, Social Ministry.

The gifts and resources of all members are needed to enable the congregation to accomplish its mission and ministry.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

Group Life and Growth

A need today is for adults to gather both for learning and mutual support. With that in mind, a variety of groups take shape on a temporary or on-going basis as needed.

These groups include:

- **Parenting/Step-parenting**
- **Marriage Care**
- **Men's Activities**
- **Grief Support**
- **Divorce Recovery**

Also, our **women's organization** offers a number of small groups called "circles" which meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

Bible study for adults is offered both Sunday mornings and during the week. Other topical studies take place on Sunday mornings.

A **prayer chain** keeps common concerns before us as needed.

And a new approach to living out our concern for one another is the clustering of congregational members into **Shepherding Groups** for prayer, growth and service together.

"But be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves." Ephesians 5:18-19

Worship and Music

Since 1994 a greater emphasis on music has been possible by adding a Music Director to the staff. Lee Howard coordinates all choirs and instrumentalists, and provides organ and piano leadership for worship.

Our commitment is to a diversity of music that retains integrity and enlivens worship. The 11:00 a.m. service worships with a more traditional liturgy while the 8:30 a.m. service experiments with a variety of music and worship forms, including music from Africa and South America.

Choir opportunities include:

- **Kid's Choir - Children**
- **No Fear - Youth**
- **Peace Notes - Adults**

In addition to weekly participation in worship, Peace Notes joins other groups several times a year to perform larger choral works such as the Faure´ and Rutter Requiems.

Instrumentalists are welcome to offer their talents in a variety of settings throughout the year.

Future plans include offering an evening service for people whose work schedule keeps them from Sunday morning participation. Wednesday evening services currently take place during Lent in preparation for Easter.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them.' " Mark 10:14

Children and Youth

Children are involved through:

- Attending worship with parents where a children's sermon is provided.
- Sunday School for ages 3 through high school.
- Vacation Bible School each Summer.
- Baptisms for infants and older.
- Holy Communion preparation each Spring for 4th Graders and older.
- Choir and other music opportunities.

Youth have additional opportunities:

- Confirmation on Wednesday evenings for 6th Grade and older (two years).
- Acolyting during worship.
- Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 through 8)
- High School Youth Group (Grades 9 through 12)

Child Center

Since 1988 Peace Lutheran has offered a mix of day care and preschool programs in houses adjacent to the church building; before and after school care has been added. The center has grown in size and reputation. It is an outreach and service to the families of the Astoria area.

The center is open year-round from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ages for children are 2 1/2 to 12 years.

The director may be reached at 325-4041 for more information.

"From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

You might want to know...

- We welcome and value the presence of a great variety of people.
- We hold the Bible as true because in it we meet the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ.
- We believe that faith draws us deeper into the world, not out of it.
- We see God's grace as the needed relief in our daily life.
- We honor the world of God's creation which we are called to steward.
- We view daily life and work as the primary places of service to God.
- We believe that in faith we discover freedom to discuss issues, find agreement, and honor disagreement.
- We confess a common brokenness and need for healing.
- We hold faith to be a mystery beyond personal decision (so a gift from God).
- We hope the Trinity opens up conversation, not closes it off.
- We see women as called to be leaders along with men in the new creation of Christ.
- We have confidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in our day to renew the Church.
- We work for Christian unity while maintaining a Lutheran identity.
- In contrast to society's individualism, we proclaim a Christian faith that cannot be lived out apart from a community of worship, learning and service.

We invite you to visit us at Peace Lutheran Church

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